

Cedric Belfrage's obit, I presume from The Times of London

6/27/90

More reminisces. When I got this from Ian McDonald, who then was a Washington correspondent of that paper, he reminded me that I'd helped him with a story that I am sure contributed to Belfrage's ~~six~~ temporary visa in 1973, referred to in the obit.

He did a fine review of my first book, I've forgotten for what paper, perhaps the National Guardian, which he'd founded, along with Jim Aronson, and thereafter we had some correspondence.

There came a time when through him I was invited to an East Berlin writers conference. I told him that if I were expected to sit on a back pew and say "Ahmen!" when told I wasn't interested. He had taken the same position and so far as I know did not go.

The obit refers to three children. The only one I ever knew was his bright and beautiful daughter, Sally. I met her through Jerry Agel, who then published the weekly, "Books". Jerry was very helpful to me and he let me use his office when I was in New York. He later ~~wrote~~ wrote the irrational and unreasonable "Twenty-two Fires!" He has the crazy notion that Oswald was really intent on killing Jackie! I say "has" because as of my last knowledge he still believed it.

Sally was then a reader for New American Library. She told me she wished she had known about Whitewash earlier because she'd have preferred trying to help it the way she'd helped Mark Lane. He, to the best of my knowledge, has never mentioned this but it is she who made the introductions for him that resulted in The Bodley Head going for "Rush to Judgement."

She introduced him to the Bertrand Russell people, including Ralph Schoeneman, if I remember the name correctly. It required and got a considerable amount of editing, from what I think she told me, and if I remember correctly this was done by a friend or former boyfriend.

The Bodley Head placed the book with Holt, Reinhart and Holt did what was necessary to make the success the book became. Their know-how and willingness to spend what was required and Lane's skill in the multitudinous appearances they arranged got it the press and other attention, particularly from radio and TV, that made him famous and what he reportedly denies, rich.

After I published Whitewash and was getting some attention for it I got a phone call from one of the top people at NAL, if I remember the name correctly a man named Kuhn. He had a paperback reprint in mind. But he decided against it.

The Times is incorrect in identifying the House Un-Americans as of the McCarthy era. That committee goes way back, ~~thence~~ to the 1930s. McCarthy's was a briefer period. HUAC lasted a little longer, too. In spirit, however, it is correct.

The last of Cedric's writing I recall was, I think, a beautiful review of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's Love In the Time of Cholera.

The last I heard of Sally she'd returned to England after not finding what she was looking for with some Indian guru.

*No obit in Wash. Post.*